

Summary of NHPA Section 106 Tribal Consultation Activities for Dewey Burdock to Date

On May 28, the NHPA Section 106 invitation Letters and enclosures were mailed to 33 of the 35 Tribes that have had historical access to the Black Hills. I was waiting to hear back on contact information for environmental and/or cultural resources contacts from two of the tribes. The remaining 2 letters were mailed on May 30. I sent the consultation tracking information to Jennifer Harris.

The courtesy copies of the letters and enclosures were emailed to the environmental directors and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and/or cultural resources contacts. The emails also contained information about the web conference scheduled for June 10, 2013. The web conference will cover the UIC Program's regulatory authority at the Dewey Burdock site and the two permit applications we are reviewing.

I also emailed copies of the letters and enclosures to the Tribal Program contacts in Regions 5, 6 and 7 so they can track the consultations for the tribes in their regions. I had contacted them before the mailout to let them know what I was planning and asked them what information they needed. Region 6 asked to be updated on which of their tribes engaged in consultation with Region 8.

Pre-consultation outreach activities

On March 4, 2013, the presentation on Cheyenne River water quality was given via web conference, by Liz Rogers, Tom Johnson and Peter Ismert. Liz presented the information on the data available on water quality of the Cheyenne River, also mentioning uranium impacts. There is not very much information available on uranium analyses. Delinda Simmons, Water Quality Coordinator for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Carlyle Ducheneaux, Water Quality Specialist for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe presented the data their respective tribes had.

On April 25, 2013, Angelique Diaz of the Air Program gave the presentation on sources of radiation exposure on uranium ISR sites and the risks from that exposure. The Tribal participants asked Angelique for exposure information for another uranium site they would be visiting where uranium had been mined historically via open pit. They were concerned about their exposure from contamination still present at the site.

The Tribal participants did not feel that the information presented during this web conference was what they had expected to hear. They asked EPA to provide them with information on cumulative impacts from the Dewey Burdock proposed activities and the historic mine sites present at the site, at a minimum. Ideally they would like to have information about the cumulative impacts of all energy related activities, including hydrofracturing and other oil exploration activities, over a wider area, including Wyoming and the Wind River Reservation. They also requested information on groundwater restoration at other ISR sites.

The web conferences were recorded with permission from all attendees. The sound files are posted on the EPA website for those who missed the presentations.